1 - 25. cancelled

26.   (amended) A method for presenting a natural language message to a user from a keystroke output wedge, the method comprising:

a)   querying a Windows-type operating system for information by;

~~b)~~   transmitting to a Windows API a query for information from a keystroke output wedge;

~~c~~<u>b</u>)   receiving in the keystroke output wedge information from the Windows-type operating system in response to the query; and

~~d~~<u>c</u>)   providing to a user from the keystroke output wedge a natural language message, where the natural language message is a function of the information from the operating system.

27   (originally presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the information relates to a Windows-type application program designed to receive keystroke input.

28.   (previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the natural language message is a prompt soliciting the user to provide input data.

29.   (previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the natural language message is feedback provided in response to input data received from the user.

30.   (previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the natural language message is a status message provided to the user in response to a pre-programmed inquiry from the keystroke output wedge to the operating system.

31. (originally presented) The method of claim 26 further comprising receiving in a keystroke output wedge input data from a data input device.

32.   (originally presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the data input device is a bar code data input device.

33.   (originally presented) The method of claim 26 where the step of transmitting to a Windows API further includes transmitting a GetForegroundWindow function.

34.   (originally presented) The method of claim 26 where the step of transmitting to a Windows API further includes transmitting a GetWindowText function.

35.   (originally presented) The method of claim 26 where the step of providing to a user from the keystroke output wedge a natural language message further includes transmitting to a Windows API a sndPlaySound function.

36 - 70.   Cancelled.

71. (previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the natural language message is provided audibly.

72. (previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the natural language message is provided visually.

73.   (previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the natural language message is provided at a pre-selected time.

74.   (amended) A computer readable medium containing a computer program which, when run on a computer, causes the computer to perform the steps of:
   a)   querying a Windows-type operating system for information by ;

~~b)~~ b) transmitting to a Windows API a query for information from a keystroke output wedge;

~~c~~b) receiving in the keystroke output wedge information from the Windows-type operating system in response to the query; and

~~d~~c) providing to a user from the keystroke output wedge a natural language message, where the natural language message is a function of the information from the operating system.

75. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 74 where the medium is a tangible memory.

76. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 74 where the medium is a data carrying electro-magnetic signal.

77 (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 74 wherein the information relates to a Windows-type application program designed to receive keystroke input.

78. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 74 wherein the natural language message is a prompt soliciting the user to provide input data.

79. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 74 wherein the natural language message is feedback provided in response to input data received from the user.

80. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 74 wherein the natural language message is a status message provided to the user in response to a pre-programmed inquiry from the keystroke output wedge to the operating system.

81. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 74 further comprising receiving in a keystroke output wedge input data from a data input device.

82. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 74 wherein the data input device is a bar code data input device.

83. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 74 where the step of transmitting to a Windows API further includes transmitting a GetForegroundWindow function.

84. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 74 where the step of transmitting to a Windows API further includes transmitting a GetWindowText function.

85. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 74 where the step of providing to a user from the keystroke output wedge a natural language message further includes transmitting to a Windows API a sndPlaySound function.